

# Middlesex University Research Repository

An open access repository of

Middlesex University research

<http://eprints.mdx.ac.uk>

Worthington, Anne (2017) Being human/being queer: a Lacanian perspective on queer praxis.  
In: Essex University Centre for Psychoanalytic Studies Open Seminar, 22 Feb 2017, Essex  
University. . [Conference or Workshop Item]

Final accepted version (with author's formatting)

This version is available at: <https://eprints.mdx.ac.uk/21593/>

## Copyright:

Middlesex University Research Repository makes the University's research available electronically.

Copyright and moral rights to this work are retained by the author and/or other copyright owners unless otherwise stated. The work is supplied on the understanding that any use for commercial gain is strictly forbidden. A copy may be downloaded for personal, non-commercial, research or study without prior permission and without charge.

Works, including theses and research projects, may not be reproduced in any format or medium, or extensive quotations taken from them, or their content changed in any way, without first obtaining permission in writing from the copyright holder(s). They may not be sold or exploited commercially in any format or medium without the prior written permission of the copyright holder(s).

Full bibliographic details must be given when referring to, or quoting from full items including the author's name, the title of the work, publication details where relevant (place, publisher, date), pagination, and for theses or dissertations the awarding institution, the degree type awarded, and the date of the award.

If you believe that any material held in the repository infringes copyright law, please contact the Repository Team at Middlesex University via the following email address:

[eprints@mdx.ac.uk](mailto:eprints@mdx.ac.uk)

The item will be removed from the repository while any claim is being investigated.

See also repository copyright: re-use policy: <http://eprints.mdx.ac.uk/policies.html#copy>

## **Being Human/Being Queer: A Lacanian Perspective on Queer Praxis**

Essex 22 February, 2017

*The engagement between queer theory and psychoanalysis offers a certain promise. Albeit from radically different standpoints, both disciplines foreground questions of subjectivity, sexuality and desire. The paper suggests the potentiality of a more rigorous engagement between queer theory and a psychoanalysis that is informed by Lacan's "re-reading" of Freud by which queer praxis can be read as solutions to the problem of being human and by which prevalent notions of sex and sexuality can be challenged and undermined. Through a brief exploration of some of the history of that engagement and a reading of some published psychoanalytic clinical case histories, the paper seeks to demonstrate that Lacan's nosological framework subverts the pathologization of non-normative sexual practices and identities. It also suggests that the certain promise of the engagement between psychoanalysis and queer theory is one that seeks to deconstruct the ideals and imperatives of heteronormativity and their lethal effects.*